

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/RA:RJMARTENS/LMCNUTT:EA/PHL:ASWI

APPROVED BY EA:JOZURHELLEN

EA/PHL:BAFLECK

OES/SCI/SA: LPACKPR

NOAA: MR. JOHNSON (DRAFT)

IO/SCT: MR.-PAEVITHICK

AID/EA:DCHRISTENSEN

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R 031939Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACREP/TTPI

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, XE

SUBJECT: STORMFURY

REF: A) MANILA'S 3762; B) BANGKOK'S 5109; C) TOKYO 3950

D) STATE 62402 - -

CINCPACREP/TTPI PASS STATUS LNO

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1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR VIEW FROM MANILA PERSPECTIVE, AND

ARE AWARE OF THE PRESSURES YOU ARE UNDER FROM THE FILIPINOS TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR RATHER AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR STORM CONTROL IN THEIR AREA.

2. STORMFURY PROJECT OR ANY PROJECT INVOLVING EFFORTS TO CONTROL TROPICAL STORMS IN EAST ASIA AREA IS NECESSARILY OF CONCERN TO NATIONS OF THE ENTIRE REGION. WE NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION PRC STATEMENT (REF B) THAT "UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT OF ALL COUNTRIES MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE EXPERIMENTS ARE MADE." THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN EFFORTS WHICH MIGHT ALTER REGIONAL WEATHER PATTERNS AS LONG AS THERE OBJECTIONS FROM CHINA, JAPAN OR OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY OUR STORM SEEDING PROGRAMS. OUR INABILITY TO ACT UNILATERALLY STEMS BOTH FROM POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FROM PROBLEMS OF LIABILITY.

3. WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE OUR SCIENTIFIC CONTACTS WITH THE JAPANESE IN THE HOPE OF PERSUADING THEM OF THE

DESIRABILITY OF THIS PROJECT. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, INTEND TO FORCE JAPANESE HAND. ALSO WE BELIEVE THE CHINESE WILL NOT BE HURRIED IN THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION.

4. WE ASSUME THE GOP, TOO, IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT UNILATERAL EFFORTS ON THEIR PART TO MODERATE STORMS MIGHT RAISE WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS, AND HOPE THAT THEY WILL WORK TO CREATE ACCEPTANCE OF STORMFURY TYPE PROJECTS IN THE REGION. YOU MAY ASSURE THE GOP WE WILL SUPPORT ANY EFFORTS THEY MAKE ALONG THESE LINES.

5. WE NOTE THAT JOHNSON/MARCOS COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT REFER TO STORMFURY OR A STORM SEEDING PROGRAM PER SE, BUT SAYS THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS "AGREED THAT REGIONAL INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY ECAFE AND WMO TO IMPROVE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES FOR TYPHOON DAMAGE CONTROL DESERVED FULL SUPPORT. PRESIDENT JOHNSON OFFERED THE SERVICES OF A U.S. METEOROLOGICAL TEAM TO DEVELOP A JOINT PROGRAM OF TYPHOON DAMAGE CONTROL IN THE PHILIPPINE AREA IN CONCERT WITH REGIONAL PLANNING."
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6. WITH REGARD TO A MODIFIED STORMFURY PROJECT, WE MUST (PER REF D) BE GUIDED BY SCIENTIFIC JUDGMENT OF NOAA AND ITS CAPACITY BOTH TO FUND SUCH A PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PERSONNEL. WE WOULD BE WILLING TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD INCREASE THEIR TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES IN THE AREA OF STORM DAMAGE CONTROL. ONLY SPECIFIC

POSSIBILITY OF WHICH WE NOW AWARE WOULD BE US TRAINING
IN THIS FIELD USING AID GENERAL PARTICIPANT TRAINING
FUNDS. UNDER SUCH PROGRAMS, WE WOULD NOT, OF COURSE,
BE WILLING TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ANY GOP EFFORTS
TO MODERATE STORMS. INGERSOLL

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